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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DAILY 49ER

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STEVEN CARCANO | DAILY 49ER

Alumna Drea Avent, an NFL, Olympic Games and MLS reporter, spoke to students for the annual CSULB Journalism Day.

CSULB alumna shares uplifting success story

NFL Fox broadcaster Drea Avent spoke at the Journlism and Careers Day event.

BY ARACELI MCADAM
Contributing Writer

National Football League sideline reporter Drea Avent took center stage as the keynote speaker for Cal State Long Beach's Journalism and Careers Day on Tuesday.

Avent graduated from CSULB in 2001 with a degree in journalism.

She addressed students in the USU Ballroom that was at full capacity. The theme of this year's Journalism Day was, "Young and Making it in Journalism and Public Relations," and was organized by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications.

"This is where I got my swagger," Avent said. "When I am doing interviews with Michael Vick, Cam Newton, and other superstars of the world, I draw on my experience here at Long Beach State."

Avent knew from a young age that she wanted to be a sportscaster on TV and is now living her dream of reporting on the biggest games for NFL on Fox.

Her success did not come easily, however, and she was constantly told she would never succeed and should choose a different career.

"Nothing worthwhile is easy," Avent said.

Avent sent out 300 resume reels and every one of them was rejected. She did not let that deter her and received her first break with the 301st resume reel she sent out to News 24 Houston.

She said she didn't know anybody in Houston but decided to take a chance. She moved to the Texas metropolis within two weeks of getting hired and said she was immediately "thrown into the fire."

"I had to film my own stories and shoot my own stories," Avent said. "I had to prove myself."

Avent said she faced many struggles as a young woman in the field. She said she had to prove herself to the players, coaches and her colleagues.

"As a female, credibility is everything," she said.

"This is where I got my swagger, when I am doing interviews with Michael Vick, Cam Newton, and other superstars of the world, I draw on my experience here at Long Beach State."
-Drea Avent, CSULB alumna

As she gained credibility in Houston, sports players stopped hitting on her and began taking her seriously, when they realized she was more than just a pretty face.

When she was finally gaining her stride, the station shut down. Ninety resume reels later, she was hired as a sportscaster for Fox San Antonio.

"I was doing well, and you know what happens when you do well," Avent said. "You get haters."

She said her co-workers didn't like her success. Avent's co-workers were jealous that players and coaches preferred to interview with her. Eventually, people began sabotaging her success and some even stole her tapes.

"I was devastated," Avent recalled. "Why would they do this to me?"

She said situations like this made her realize another important key to success.

"You have to be tough to succeed in journalism," she said.

Her father would tell her, "So what if they are hating on you? It means that you are doing something right."

She said this was a turning point in her career and made her realize no one was going to stop her from doing what she loves.

At the end of her speech, Avent shared her five keys to success. She said that every journalism student should have confidence, a plan, a positive attitude, tough skin and determination.

"It is comforting to know that a person who was once in my shoes is now doing big things," said Michelle Velez, a senior journalism major.

Marc Mejia, a junior journalism major, said that he has attended other events where older professionals

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Senator: Chief of staff given to 'friends'

BY MONIQUE CARNES AND KASIA HALL
Staff Writers

Associated Students Inc. Senate barely passed a resolution that would change the chief of staff's selection procedure at a Senate meeting last week.

The resolution was passed on its first reading with an 8-5 vote with seven Senators abstaining.

The resolution, authored by Senator-at-Large Jason Neas, proposes the president present three chief of staff nominees to the Senate and the Senate would confirm one nominee.

"It would give the Senate more of an ability to vet the candidates," Neas said.

Under current appointment procedures, the chief of staff and chief programming officer are appointed by the new president each year and confirmed by the ASI Senate.

"[The positions] have been exploited beyond different ways, they are given to friends, given to campaign managers, given to people with political alliances," Neas said.

ASI President Lucy Nguyen said the resolution is a good idea.

"I'm not saying that [the resolution] is a solution, I'm saying it is a good idea because it's addressing an issue and that issue is that ASI has been getting criticism that the chief of staff obtained the position because they are the president's friend," Nguyen said.

Nguyen said her chief of staff, Deborah Rowe, was a close friend that helped coordinate her campaign. Nguyen said, although she remained neutral in her appointment and interview process, the Senate, as a Board of Directors, should be able to choose the chief of staff confidently.

"I could say honestly I tried to be as objective as I could, but how am I to know for sure that I was objective?" Nguyen said. "I'm judging myself. If I had a board to look at applications also, it would solidify my position. I think in a way, it protects the position [of chief of staff]."

Senator of the College of the Arts,

ASI | Page 2

Death penalty may end in California, pending voter approval

The death penalty would be replaced with life in prison.

BY VINNY EARLEY
Staff Writer

A proposal to replace the death penalty with a life sentence in prison for California qualified for the November ballot on Monday.

According to the attorney general's official summary, repealing the death penalty in California could result in saving millions of dollars annually. It is estimated that the measure will create $100 million from 2012-13 through 2015-16, which will be distributed to law enforcement agencies solving homicide and rape cases.

The initiative applies to more than 700 California prisoners who have already been sentenced to death, according to The Sacramento Bee. Those found guilty of murder would be required to work while incarcerated, and their wages would be applied toward victim restitution and other fines.

Shantika Elliott, a senior communications major at Cal State Long Beach, said that the penalty should remain in effect.

"I think it should be kept and used for the most heinous of criminals," Elliott said.

Elliot said that she feels certain criminals should spend the rest of their lives in prison. Others, such as serial killers like Ted Bundy, should be eligible for the death penalty, she said.

Devang Engineer, a freshman biology major, also said that there should not be an outright ban on the death penalty in California.

"It shouldn't be something that's implemented frequently, of course, only for the most severe cases," Engineer said. "It depends on the person, and it depends on the exact nature of the crime they've committed."

Other students support the repeal. Joanna Franco, a junior political science major, said that she would be voting in favor of the ban.

"I feel it's a barbaric practice that has long been outdated," Franco said. "I think that experience has also shown that if you use other forms of therapy to treat a criminal, it ends up being more effective and cheaper for the state."

Semester at Sea program offers insight to students

Professor Nilufer Medora will leave on her second voyage this summer.

By Alfred Pallarca
Staff Writer

When Cal State Long Beach professor Nilufer Medora traveled to China as part of the semester at sea program, she was in a small kitchen but eating 22 different dishes, all prepared by one person.

Medora and her students had stopped at a port stop of the MV Explorer ship during the spring 2010 voyage and spent the day with a local Chinese woman who left a lasting impression on everyone.

The woman shopped and cooked lunch for them.

"The hospitality that we experienced was just unbelievable," she said. "She was a remarkable woman."

This notable field trip was just one of several that Medora and her students were able to experience during their semester at sea.

Medora, a CSULB child development and family studies professor, applied to teach in the Semester at Sea program during fall 2009 and was immediately accepted aboard in the spring 2010 voyage.

Medora said, although she was unsure, she ultimately decided to go for it.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and, if I passed it up, I had no idea when it would ever come back," she said. "It was a lot of work but well worth it. It's the best thing that ever happened to me in my life."

Semester at Sea is a program sponsored by the University of Virginia and the Institute for Shipboard Education. The program is open for any students or faculty members.

The program offers four different voyages, including spring, fall, summer and short terms in the summer. Every voyage has a different itinerary.

The cost for a student varies from roughly $4,000 to $25,000. However, the program offers plenty of scholarships and their own financial aid system.

Medora said that although it seems costly, everyone should look into it.

"If I could give advice to any parent, I would say forget about giving your child a car or a house or a big wedding," she said. "Invest in the Semester at Sea program. It's the best thing that you could ever do for your child."

Students who participate must take 12 units of classes. They have class every day, even during the weekends. However, they have free time for about a week during their port stop to explore and enjoy the area.

Medora thinks that the schoolwork is more rigorous because the students have to study every day. The program keeps every student and faculty member pretty busy so they really have to devote their time to academics.

Courtesy of Nulifer Medora

Professor Nulifer Medora has taught a semester at sea.

Although Medora thinks all students should check it out, she doesn't think it's for everyone.

"If you are likely to get homesick, then it's probably not for you," she said.

Medora said she has noticed dramatic changes in the students.

"I see some of the most quiet and shy students and how their self-esteem builds over time," she said. "It is truly one of the most significant life-altering experiences."

Medora said she had such a wonderful experience in 2010 that she applied again and was accepted to teach for the summer program.

"Life is passing by and if I don't give it a shot, I may never get this experience again," she said. "I was so thrilled they selected me."

Students that would like to apply for the program can apply at any time for the spring, summer or fall voyages. Student applications are kept in the system for up to one year.

Elijah McHenry | Daily 49er

Several outstanding journalism students were inducted into Kappa Tau Alpha, an honor society for mass communications.

Journalism

Continued from Page 1

speak, but he was able to relate to Avent because she was younger and more relevant.

"She's a fighter; I don't think I would have the drive to send 300 clips," Eddie Perez, a senior journalism major, said. "She gave me some drive and seeing other people with that passion is encouraging."

Avent has been in the industry for six years and in addition to her experience with NFL on Fox, she has done sideline reporting for Major League of Soccer and college football reporting for Fox Sports. This July, she is covering women's soccer at the 2012 Summer Olympics for NBC.

ASI

Continued from Page 1

Jorge Soriano, who is also applying for chief of staff, expressed his concerns on the resolution.

"What concerns me the most is by the Senate passing this resolution, we're saying 'we as the board don't trust the president is making the right decision, we need to filter that decision,'" Soriano said.

The chief of staff serves in the president's cabinet as the senior policymaking advisor, and would act as the "secretary responsible for representing the interest of the AS to, but not limited to California State Student Association, the California State University system and State legislatures," according to the ASI website.

Next year's ASI president John Haberstroh said the decision of chief of staff should not be made by the Senate.

"It seems a little crazy that they would appoint who the president has to work with," Haberstroh said. "They want to give more power to the Senate."

According to the current bylaws, "the AS President shall have primary responsibility for the making of all AS Executive appointments."

"I respect the author's resolution, but I don't think this is the way we should go about fixing it," Soriano said.

Next year's vice president Jonathon Bolin said that he believes it is a good idea, but the way the resolution is written is a little vague.

"There's definitely something that needs to be done," Bolin said. "The current proposal has a hole in it and has areas that could be read differently."

The chief of staff makes a salary of $18,970 annually in total compensation.

"The chief of staff is a political bargaining chip," Neas said. "That has to be put into question."

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Suspect booked for trespassing, asking 'uncomfortable' questions

By Jessica Rosales
Staff Writer

University Police found a suspicious person near the Beach Hut on April 16 at 2 a.m., Capt. Scott Brown said.

The suspect was described as a 5-foot-6, thin, black man wearing a dark hoodie and black pants, Brown said. He was cited for trespassing since he had no business on campus, especially not at that time in the morning, Brown said.

The man returned to campus on April 18 around 9 p.m., Brown said. This time, he was asking female students questions that made them uncomfortable, Brown said.

Since he was in violation of his trespassing citation, the suspect was booked at the Long Beach City Jail, Brown said.

A series of unfortunate events

A student reported his Giant Escape 2 hybrid bike stolen from a bike rack located between Liberal Arts building 1 and the University Library between April 16 and April 17, Brown said.

When the student returned on Tuesday evening to retrieve his bicycle, he found the bike and the cable lock used to secure it missing, Brown said. The total loss is valued at $400.

The same student's silver MacBook Pro was stolen from The Outpost Grill only a day later, Brown said.

On April 18, the student had stepped away from his MacBook Pro for a moment and returned to find it missing, Brown said. The total estimated cost, including a laptop case, is $1,800.

'Find My Phone' app almost works

University Police received a call from a man, on April 19, reporting that the "Find My Phone" application had located his phone near the pool area of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, Brown said.

The man had lost his cell phone in an off-campus car accident and noticed that the application said it was on the CSULB campus, Brown said. University Police responded by searching the area, but were unable to locate the phone once the signal from Find My Phone was lost.

Cash stolen from RLC

University Police received a report of petty theft from Beach Hall in the Residential Learning Center on April 13 around 8:30 p.m., Brown said.

While investigating the $140 cash theft from the RLC, University Police made contact with a possible suspect, Brown said.

University Police then found out that the suspect also had a warrant based on a gang-related injunction. She was arrested because of the warrant, but is not yet directly connected to the RLC theft.

Stolen items

A student reported his silver MacBook Pro stolen from Room 201 in the University Telecommunications building on April 13, Brown said.

The student had left the laptop unattended from 11:40 a.m. to 12 p.m. and returned to find it missing, Brown said. The MacBook is valued at $5,000 and there are currently no suspects.

A.J. Leone | Daily 49er

A man was arrested at the Beach Hut for trespassing on campus and disturbing female students.

A student reported his backpack stolen from a classroom in the Engineering 4 building on April 17 between 2 and 4 p.m., Brown said.

The student stepped out of the otherwise unoccupied room and returned to find his backpack missing. His bag included items such as a $550 Lenovo ThinkPad and an engineering textbook valued at $200, Brown said. There are currently no suspects.

A student reported her white Cannondale mountain bike stolen on April 12 between 6 and 9 p.m., Brown said.

She had used a cable lock to secure her bike to a rack located on the west side of the Kinesiology building but found both items missing, Brown said. The total estimated loss is $700.

A red and black Paul Frank beach cruiser was reported stolen from the bike rack near the H building in the Parkside Commons Residence Hall between April 18 and April 19, Brown said.

The student had secured her bike with a cable lock, but returned to find her bike missing, Brown said. The total loss is valued at $300.

A woman reported a coin purse stolen from her bag at the University Library on April 19 around 5 p.m., Brown said.

She had left her bag unattended outside of a restroom and returned to find her red coin purse and Bank of America debit card stolen, Brown said. The total loss is valued at $6 and it has been reported that the debit card was not used to make any purchases since then, Brown said.

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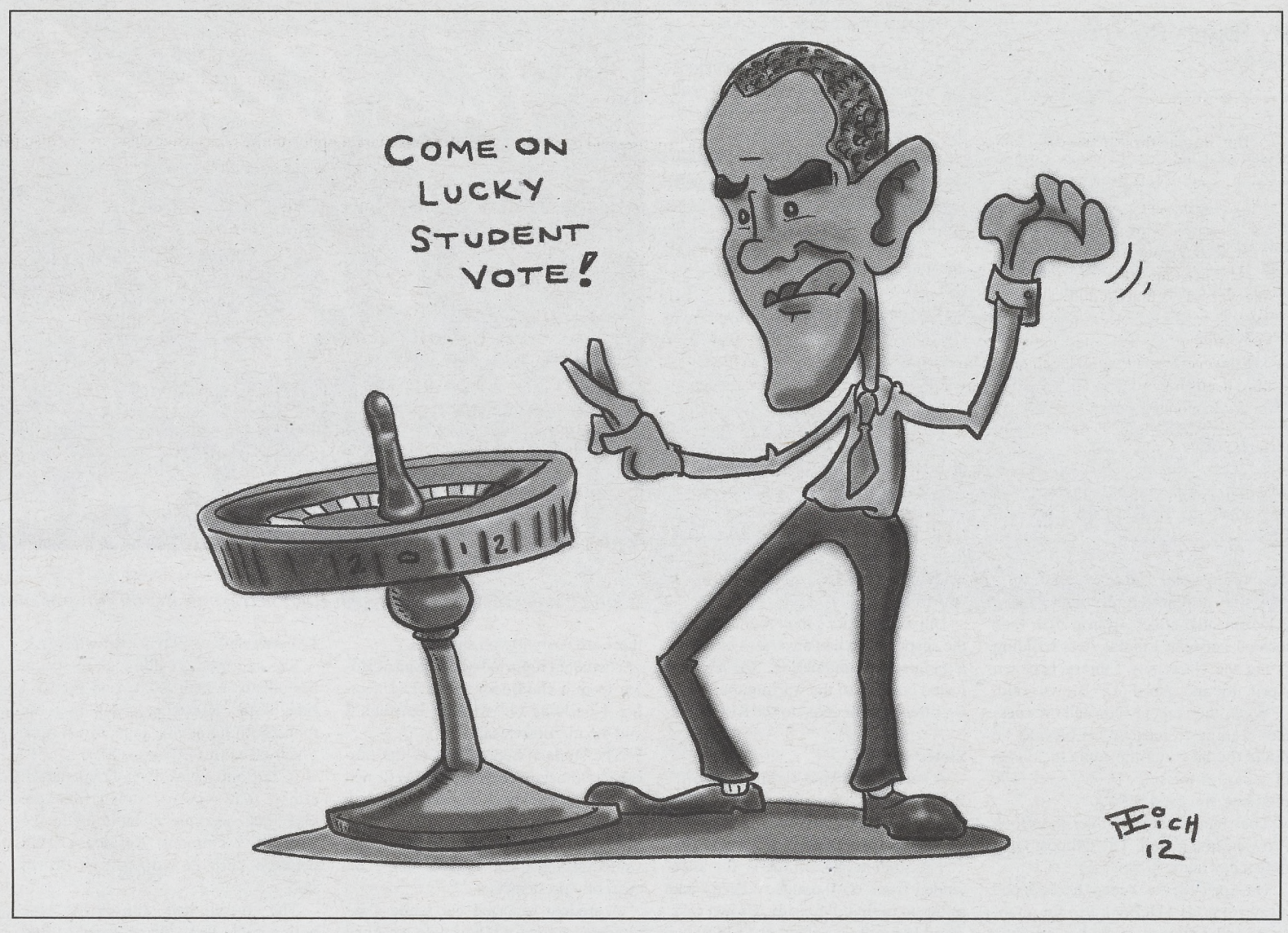
Student loan platform could recapture student vote



When Obama was elected in 2008 it was young voters who made the difference. Now, he is making a move to get those young voters back on his side.

Our View

Obama is calling on Congress to keep student subsidized Stafford loan interest rates from doubling. If Congress does not act by July 1, students who have to pay off these loans will rack up another $1,000 per year in debt.

With more than 7.5 million students paying off these student loans, this is a hugely important issue. The students of today represent the future of this country, and piling more debt on their backs could drastically affect how their lives pan out.

It takes years to pay off student loans, and if students are forced to pay an additional $1000 per year, it will make their burden even greater.

Obama seems to understand that higher education is something that every person in America should be able to afford.

He criticizes the Republicans for approving tax cuts for wealthy millionaires while c3ollege students have to suffer.

It does not make sense that people who paid a lot less for their education and were able to thrive in the past have no interest in helping students of the present.

This is a major reason why students need to get out and vote during this election.

The result of this election will have a huge impact on the amount of debt students will have to pay off once they are out of school.

Congressional Republicans do not seem to understand the importance of affordable higher education, while Obama clearly does. This is an issue all students can understand which is why it is so important for us to vote.

These interest rates will only affect students who take out loans after July 1 if congress does not intervene. Students, especially in California, take more than four years to graduate these days, so racking up loans is especially inconvenient.

Hopefully Congress will listen to President Obama and keep students from accruing thousands of dollars of debt due to this increase in interest rates. With tuition rates as high as they are already with fees constantly added, this would make college almost impossible to afford for many families.

Hopefully, this move by President Obama will catch young voter's attention again and get them back on Obama's side. Making this announcement was a huge move to pick up the young vote, but it seems like Obama legitimately believes in it as well. Hopefully he will make it a permanent part of his platform.

People who are against Obama's decision are using the argument that this decision comes down to piling billions on the backs of taxpayers.

If this is the case, then it does not make sense to ask students to pay. Students have not yet had the chance to start their career and get the financial support that they need to pay off their debt.

It is understandable that the money has to come from somewhere, but we cannot allow the wealthy to avoid paying for it while students suffer.

We are already dealing with tuition raises and unit caps, doubling our student loan interest rates would simply be too much.

Metta World Peace deserves punishment for latest suspension

Lawrence Maybir

With the swing of one elbow, basketball fans have been smacked with memories of the player that was known as Ron Artest, not Metta World Peace. In the first half of last Sunday's Lakers-Thunder game, World Peace not only knocked Oklahoma City Thunder guard James Harden out with a concussion, but he possibly knocked out the Lakers' title hopes as well.

As Laker fans wait for the inevitable suspension that is on the horizon, two questions have come to the forefront: How many games should World Peace be suspended for? And should his history of violent behavior play a role in the decision made by the NBA?

Quite simply, a concussion-causing elbow to the head is bad enough, but an elbow to the head from a player that has already been suspended 13 times in his NBA career is completely unacceptable. The league definitely needs to consider his history and dole out a hard punishment for World Peace.

When the 6'7" forward was known as Artest, he was also known as a player with a quick trigger and a hot temper ready to blow at any minute. It seemed like every other month a fight was initiated or escalated by Artest.

All of those altercations seem miniscule, however, compared to the most disgraceful moment in Artest's career – the 2004 brawl between the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons which has come to be known as "The Malice in the Palace."

The brawl resulted in the suspension of nine players, five of which were charged with assault, and five fans faced criminal charges and were banned from attending Pistons home games for life. Artest ignited this horrible display which some have called the most embarrassing moment in NBA history. There is no way the NBA can simply overlook that horrendous day as well as World Peace's other altercations when deciding his punishment.

Yes, World Peace has made great strides in the past couple of years towards improving his image. He even won the NBA's J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award last season.

However, a few years of good behavior does not wipe the slate clean, especially when a player suffers a concussion due to getting an elbow to the head.

As James Harden hit the hardwood during Sunday's game, doubts of World Peace's on-court character were once again reignited.

The countless fights, numerous suspensions, and immature behavior all came flying back with a fury into the minds of NBA fans. And if the memories came back for fans, the memories definitely should have come back for the NBA officials who have dealt out suspensions for all these years.

If the league's front offices want to keep any shred of credibility, they need to hand down a very harsh punishment.

Metta World Peace's elbow could possibly end up knocking two franchises out of their title hopes. If that happens, the league needs to learn from their mistakes.

Lawrence Maybir is a senior journalism major and a contributing writer for the Daily 49er.

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

Congress needs to invest in improving interstate infrastructure

Society will never completely agree about what the federal government's proper role in society is. Some will always think it should assume a more expansive role, while others will always believe it should play a limited role.

But, despite these differences, there are certain functions that almost everyone believes can best be accomplished by government.

For example, the federal government is best suited for the administration of the U.S. military as well as the maintenance of currency.

Another important function the federal government serves is that of maintaining infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, around the country in order to facilitate interstate commerce.

However, even though much of our infrastructure needs updating and many people are still out of work, Congress hasn't taken comprehensive action to address the U.S.'s infrastructure woes.

If Congress doesn't take comprehensive action to improve our infrastructure, our highways and roads will continue to decay and hinder economic progress in the long run.

Much of the U.S. infrastructure is rapidly dilapidating. In 2009, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave it a 'D' grade in terms of quality.

In a 2011 report, the ASCE took note of the U.S.'s aging water infrastructure and cited the negative economic consequences of languishing transportation structures.

According to the Urban Land Institute, much of this can be attributed to the political stalemate and the refusal to raise the gas tax, which hasn't been contributing as much to the federal Highway Trust Fund.

LEONARDO POAREO

According to the ULI, states must attempt to do so, but since they're also broke nothing ends up happening.

Infrastructure is vital in easing the flow of goods and services in our economy. Not only does construction provide jobs to workers, which the U.S. could certainly benefit from in the midst of this recession, but it could also further facilitate commerce on a long-term basis.

In a report, the World Bank noted that "the expansion in quantity and improvement in quality of infrastructure services…lowers costs and expands market opportunities for businesses" while contributing "to increased investment and productivity which is essential for sustaining economic growth."

But while the economic benefits are agreed upon, the proposed solutions aren't, although Congress should consider all of them. Some have proposed raising the aforementioned gas tax, and many people have also proposed the creation of a bank dedicated to funding infrastructure projects. Still, others like the Council on Foreign Relations think Congress should ease federal governmental regulations in order to encourage statewide public-private structural investment partnerships.

While this might work for exclusively local infrastructure, in order to prevent a cobbled-together road system that might adversely affect inter-state trade, Congress should focus on investing in projects on a national scale. The CFR also proposes better coordination among federal programs so as to better facilitate infrastructural funding.

Highway systems, water systems, and other various infrastructure systems in the United States don't simply appear and maintain themselves. An organizing body must plan building projects, implement them, and maintain the structures. That organizing body isn't the private sector. Even libertarians recognize this. The proper organizing body for this task is the federal government, and it's time for Congress to step up and actually take measures to improve the infrastructure that connects the U.S. and aids commerce and prosperity.

Leonardo Poareo is a senior journalism major and a contributing writer for the Daily 49er.

CSULB students should take advantage of travel opportunities

Traveling outside the comfort zone of our American bubble is an essential part of making us more worldly and well-rounded individuals.

Everyone should grasp the opportunity to visit a different country while we are here at CSULB and don't have immense responsibilities tying us down.

It has been proven through countless research that traveling and immersing ourselves in the culture of another country gives us an invaluable perspective on life as well as ourselves as individuals.

Understandably the financial aspect of traveling holds a lot of people back, but with a little research and motivation, anyone can find an affordable experience to embark on.

In essence, the significance and intangible value of the trip far exceeds the financial contribution.

For example, our Study Abroad Department in Brotman Hall has countless opportunities for student to choose from.

Trips range in duration from weeklong excursions to semester or yearly programs that offer prices starting as low as $1,738.

IRINA CHIRKINA

Another great resource is Contiki.com, a website tailored to students that provides countless discount rates on flights, hotels, and tours.

Contiki has an incredible wealth of information and resources that can help any one of us seek the thrill of a travel experience. They have a layaway program that lets family and friends contribute to your trip, and it's easy too. You choose the country, the month and the duration, and open a Contiki account which lets you see how much you need, how much has been donated and how much more is needed to make your dream trip possible. It is a great way to engage your friends and family to participate in contributing to your travel aspirations.

More resources and discounts can be found on websites such as livingsocial.com, groupon.com, and travelzoo.com. Bing.com also has a great feature where you can look up flight and hotel information and emails you when the rates go up or down.

Overall, I urge you to expand your horizons, travel the world, and immerse yourself in different cultures. As Americans we pride ourselves on our cultural awareness, yet there are so many of us that have never been out of the states.

I am not necessarily an advocate for specific travel companies or study abroad programs, but I am an advocate for furthering our cultural awareness.

It's important for people our age to become well-rounded individuals. It would benefit our personal futures as well as the future of America.

Irina Chirkina is communication studies and journalism double major and a contributing writer for the Daily 49er.

'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead' comical, dark

The Cal Rep Company production spins Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

By Jackie Rosas
Staff Writer

Death, hopelessness and isolation are explored during the last California Repertory Theater production of the season, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead."

This comedy, by Tom Stoppard, is based on Shakespeare's "Hamlet." However, it is seen through the eyes of the seemingly unimportant minor characters, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Directed by Tom Cooke, this production revolves around Rosencrantz (Craig Anton) and Guildenstern (John Prosky), who land in the plot of "Hamlet" without direction for their future or remembrance of their past. In order to give contextual reference to "Hamlet," Cooke incorporates scenes from Lawrence Olivier's film version, which is projected onto a large screen on the back and center of the stage.

Also embedded throughout those clips are appearances from the actors of the play. The costumes, hair and makeup match the Elizabethan era portrayed in the film perfectly, which contributes a lot to the comedy. In many cases, the actors on-stage replicate the actions of scenes from the film.

The play opens with a clip from the film that first brings Rosencrantz and Guildenstern into the action of "Hamlet." Evidently, they are unsure about what their purpose is. They pass time by flipping coins, and after many tries, Guildenstern notices a disturbance in the universe because all the coins keep coming up heads, to Rosencrantz's delight.

From then on, the title characters struggle to decipher their place and time within the context of the action. Most of their time is spent stuck in one place with quick entrances and exits from the other characters like Hamlet (Mark Piatelli), King Claudius (Simon Brooke) and Queen Gertrude (Lysa Fox). Together, they try to collect and remember all the pieces of information from the other characters in order to accomplish their unknown goal.

Hilarious at most times, they have great difficulty figuring out what's going on, what to do and even what their own names are. The level of isolation that exists for these two characters is so great that they do not leave the stage. They are physically and mentally stuck within a confined space they have no control over.

Watching their struggle, confusion and attempts at free will is incredibly comical at times, yet there are underlying dark themes that intermittently come into focus. The theme of death appears multiple times by Rosencrantz, whose questions and fears of death are universal. Guildenstern brings up other ideas about having no control over one's own life.

Infused with quick and witty dialogue, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's characters are unfortunate souls who are quite endearing. They leave the audience rooting for them even while they stumble towards their inevitable deaths.

Stoppard's brilliant use of language, a modern twist on the classic Shakespearean language, is executed brilliantly by the whole cast. Throughout the confused ramblings of the two title characters are true moments of illumination in which one of the characters comes to a realization about life, death or something in between. Woven between the hilarity are deeper themes that make the play more meaningful.

Overall, this production is as entertaining as it is important. The incorporation of the Olivier film clip offers great assistance for understanding the context of the play. However, a basic knowledge of the plot of "Hamlet" is useful.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" will run until May 12. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. The show takes place in the Royal Theatre aboard the Queen Mary. Tickets are $15 for students and $20 for general admission. The Queen Mary is located at 1126 Queens Highway. For tickets and other information, visit **calrep.org.**

Keith Ian Polakoff
From left: John Prosky and Craig Anton perform in "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead."

Artist exhibits illness through art

Active imagination is used to portray inner unconsciousness in Lisa Talbot's still-life photography.

By Angela Ratzlaff
Staff Writer

Cal State Long Beach studio art major Lisa Talbot suffers from multiple sclerosis, but she uses photography and sculpture to help her fight the mental and psychological pains associated with her condition.

Talbot takes on Carl Jung's psychological theory of the active imagination in her current exhibition, "Cycles." The collection of photos forms a circle around the Max L. Gatov Gallery and portrays her inner pains through glossy images of found object sculptures.

According to Jung's theory, unconscious thoughts can be translated through visual or literal means. Talbot's photos stem from her dreams and the pain she encounters from her health troubles.

"Psychologically, we have stuff in our heads that we aren't conscious of," Talbot said.

Acupuncture needles come out of fuchsia fabric intertwined with lime-green ribbons and open medication bottles illuminated by reflective light bouncing off the crystals, which are strung together to make up Talbot's images.

"It's evocative. It is surreal to me," said Los Angeles resident Preston Gelberwolf. "She uses recognizable objects in an untraditional way."

Talbot regularly gets acupuncture as treatment for her physical health. Needles overtake the entire left side of one piece, which was photographed while she visited her acupuncture practitioner several times a week.

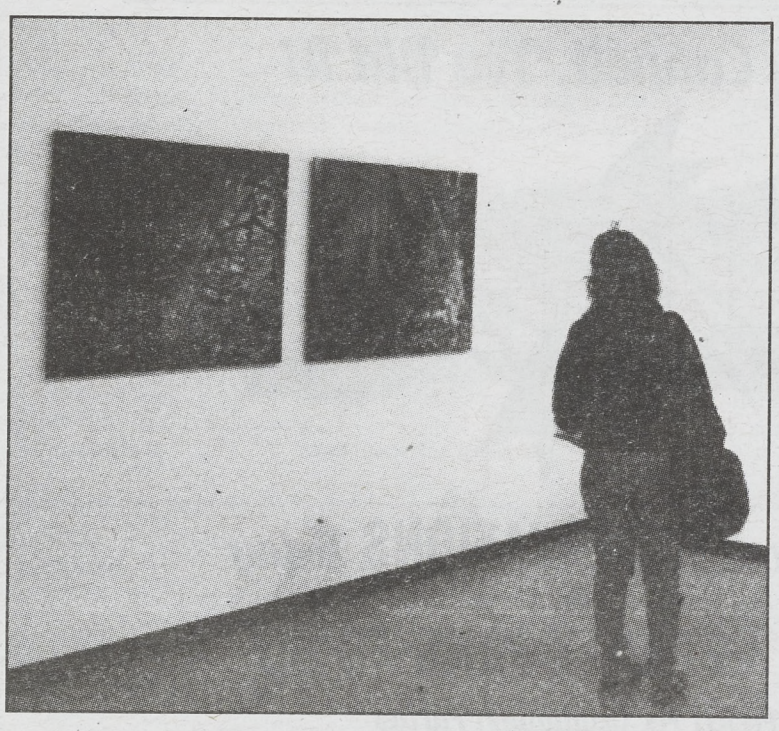
Talbot's photos combine contrasting ideas and objects, including bright blue sticks of rock candy that rest upon torn-up pieces of chicken wire.

"The vibrant colors remind me of childhood, but that's at first glance," said Long Beach resident Dorothy Morris.

Each photo's complexity is representative of life, Talbot said. She plays with the clashing and complementing elements in her photos to depict pain versus happiness.

"That's how life is," she said. "Some things make me well, some things make me not well."

Talbot shoots with her choice of 160VC negative film and uses her favorite Toyo G2 4x5 camera. She used the same camera and film for her entire collection, and does not include any digital manipulation. She relies on lighting and composition to create dream-like settings.



Rosetta Ragusa | Daily 49er
Studio Art Major, Ruth Solares, observes Lisa Talbot's exhibit on April 23 at the Gatov Student Art Gallery at Cal State Long Beach.

"I work in a specific way; connecting to my unconscious," Talbot said. "I have to go through a certain process."

"Cycles" makes up Talbot's senior thesis and marks the completion of her work in the MFA program. She plans to continue pursuing photography and work more with sculpture and installation in future projects.

More of Talbot's work can be viewed on her website at lisatalbot.com.

"Cycles" will run until Thursday of this week. The Max V. Gatov gallery is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from noon to 7 p.m.

Campus Calendar

April 25

Noontime concert
AMP Radio will be on campus to promote "**Rags II Rhythms**" at the **USU Southwest Terrace** from **noon** to **1:30 p.m.**

Wellness Week
"**Your Passport to Healthy Aging**" will include health walks, exercise demonstrations, and tours and will be held from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the **Maxsom Plaza.**

Portfolio exhibition
The **design department** presents **portfolio exhibition** from **10 a.m.** to **5 p.m.** in the **Design Gallery**. Admission is **free.**

Faculty dance
The 2012 **Faculty Dance Concert** will be held at **8 p.m.** in the **Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater.** Tickets are **$16** for students and **$20** for general admission.

Faculty composers
Bob Cole Conservatory of Music will host the **Faculty Composers Concert** in the **Gerald Daniel Recital Hall** at **8 p.m.** Tickets are **$7** for students and **$10** for general admission.

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10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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'Niners host key Big West matchup this weekend

LBSU has the chance to secure sole possession of first place in Big West.

By Jason Clark
Staff Writer

After going 2-1 at Cal State Northridge over the weekend, the Long Beach State softball team is in a four-way tie for first place in the Big West Conference and will try to emerge from the pack this week during as they welcome UC Riverside.

A 4-3 victory and 2-1 loss to the Matadors in Saturday's doubleheader set up a 9-4 victory for the 49ers (18-21, 8-4 Big West) in the rubber match of the series on Sunday.

That left them tied with Pacific, UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara for first place in the Big West.

"It's been getting closer and closer every year," "Niners head coach Kim Sowder said. "I think there have been maybe three teams [tied for first]. I don't know if there have ever been four this late into it, but you're seeing a lot of that throughout the country. Just a lot of parity."

The 'Niners contributed to that parity last weekend when they won their third consecutive series. After opening Big West play going 1-2 at Santa Barbara, they swept Cal Poly, took two of three from UC Davis on the road and then did the same at Northridge over the weekend. Leading the 'Niners on offense were seniors Ashylnn Booker and Alisha Rosen, who each had crucial home runs in the victories.

"[Booker] hit the ball really hard. Her homerun was a bomb, at least 40 or 50 feet over the wall," Sowder said.

The offense also had valuable contributions from right fielder Brie Stephan and shortstop Shayna Kimbrough, who was moved into the leadoff spot for the first time.

Stephan hit .556 for the weekend and added two runs and two RBI while Kimbrough went 3-for-5 with two doubles and a run scored in the final game.

"Brie definitely gave us a lift," Sowder said. "She's been looking really good in practice and is starting to get her strength back and is hitting the ball like I know she's capable of. She can really help us."

This weekend, the 49ers will return home for a series with UC Riverside. The Highlanders (20-24, 3-9 Big West) started off slowly in conference play but have some momentum after taking two of three from Cal State Fullerton last week.

"They've just always been really strong offensively," Sowder said. "We're going to have to do a good job with their hitters and continue to play good defense."

Among those hitters are catcher Alexis Pickett, center fielder Kayla White and first baseman Jessica Vasser.

Pickett currently leads the team with a .356 batting average and also has 24 RBI and 8 steals to her name. White has an incredible 34 RBI and 6 home runs to complement her .341 batting average.

Then there's Vasser, who has a .308 average, 2 home runs and 19 RBI and is the reigning Big West Player of the Week.

Sowder has two aces in sophomore Erin Jones-Wesley and senior Taylor Petty to deal with that CSUN's trifecta. Their success will be critical to a series victory for the 49ers.

LBSU has the opportunity to be in a good position to take over sole possession of first place in the Big West and eventually win the conference championship, which is still their only way to get into the postseason NCAA tournament.

The Riverside series will take place at the 49er Softball Complex. A doubleheader on Saturday will begin at 1 p.m. with the final game starting at 3 p.m. The finale on Sunday will be held at 1 p.m.

File Photo

The Long Beach State softball team will welcome CSU Northridge this weekend for a three game series.

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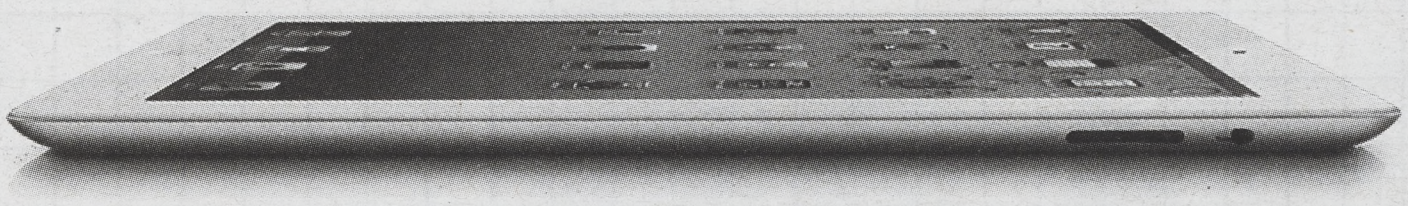

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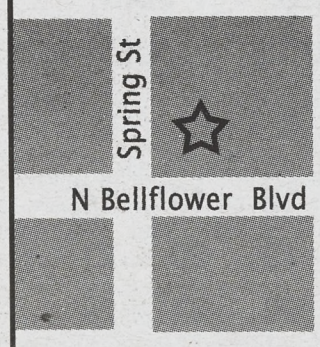
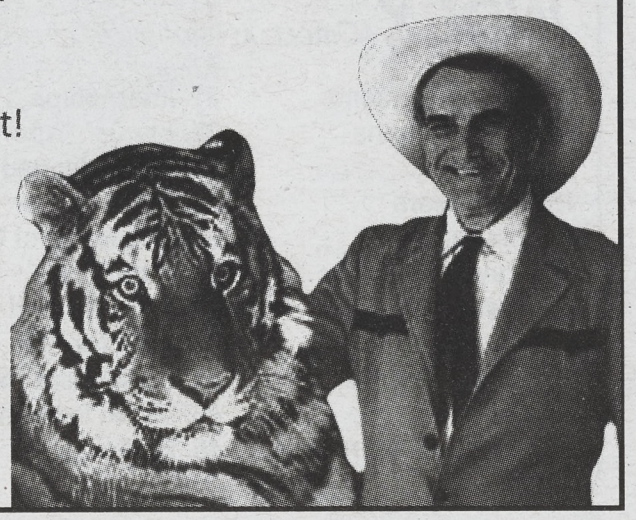
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